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TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TEAM FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE REMOVAL AND PREVENTION  
EPA CONTRACT 68-01-6669

MEMORANDUM

TO: Garrett Arai, OSC, EPA Region III PCS #1061  
THRU: Richard Habrukowich, TATL, Region III TDD #8701-91  
FROM: Mark Tucker, TAT Region III MT  
DATE: February 3, 1987  
SUBJECT: DCI Circuits Emergency Response, Plumsteadville, Bucks County, PA

On January 25, 1987, members of the Roy F. Weston Technical Assistance Team (TAT) responded to a chemical fire at the DCI Circuits facility in Plumsteadville, Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Local fire departments responded to the fire at approximately 0900 hours the same date and reportedly had the fire extinguished by 1100 hours. TATs Mark Tucker and Chris Whallon were dispatched at 1200 hours and arrived on scene with OSC Garrett Arai at approximately 1500 hours. The OSC and TAT were briefed on the site situation by personnel from the Bucks County Fire Department (John Matter) and the Plumsteadville Volunteer Fire Department (Richard Haas).

The OSC, TAT and fire department personnel performed an inspection of the facility. The fire had destroyed several vats which held acid solutions containing copper, lead and tin. Approximately 2000 gallons of water had been used to fight the fire that morning. Acid solutions covered much of the floor within the facility (pH 0 to 1). The water had exited the building into drainage ditches beside the facility and traveled to a ditch paralleling Route 611 and under Route 611 by way of a culvert pipe. The runoff had a distinctive blue-green color indicating its copper content and had a pH of 1 to 2.

TAT performed an inspection of the facility to provide an estimated inventory of hazardous materials within the facility. The facility contains approximately 150 drums containing acids, bases and oxidizers, six dozen small containers of miscellaneous reagents in a laboratory, and 40 to 50 drums labelled hazardous waste. The materials contained within the drums include sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, fluoboric acid, acetic acid, phosphoric acid, ammonium hydroxide, sodium hydroxide, potassium hydroxide, potassium permanganate, hydrogen peroxide, dry powdered oxidizer, copper sulfate, ammonium persulfate, 1,1,1-trichloroethane, miscellaneous reagents, and other chemicals. The drums with hazardous waste labels are suspected to contain spent acids, bases, and oxidizers.

Roy F. Weston, Inc.

SPILL PREVENTION & EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION

In Association with ICF Inc., Jacobs Engineering Group Inc., C.C. Johnson & Associates, Inc., and Tetra Tech, Inc.,

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Poor housekeeping practices were noted during the inspection including the storing of drums containing acids immediately adjacent to bases, and stacking containers containing oxidizers on top of caustics. The potential for violent reactions between materials is magnified by the presence of large quantities of spilled acid which may corrode steel drums and destroy fiberboard drums containing oxidizers.

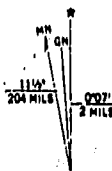
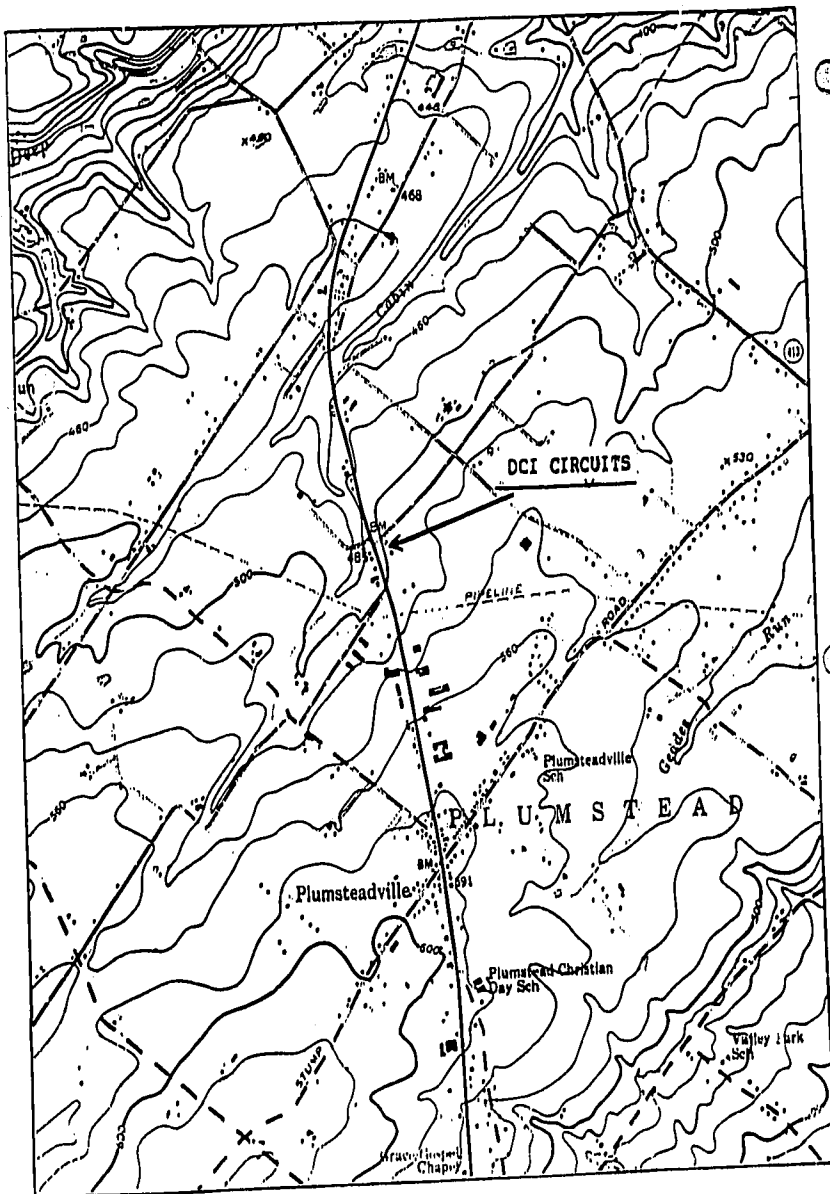
The OSC contacted the RP (DCI/Roger Burke) at 1600 hours to determine what actions were being taken to abate threats to public health and the environment. The RP reported that a spill contractor (NEPCCO) was to be on scene ASAP. The RP (Burke) and RP spill contractor (NEPCCO) were on scene at 1630 hours to discuss cleanup strategies with the OSC. The RP agreed to seal off all entrances to the facility, channel melting snow from the roof away from the contamination, seal off all open migration routes of water from the building, and seal off the drainage ditch leading to the culvert pipe under Route 611.

The OSC and TAT departed from the scene after determining that the RP was apparently taking responsible and appropriate action. The OSC was to continue to monitor cleanup activities.

MT:1a1

Attachments: Location Map  
Site Sketch  
Floor Plan  
Photographic Documentation

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BEDMINSTER, PA.

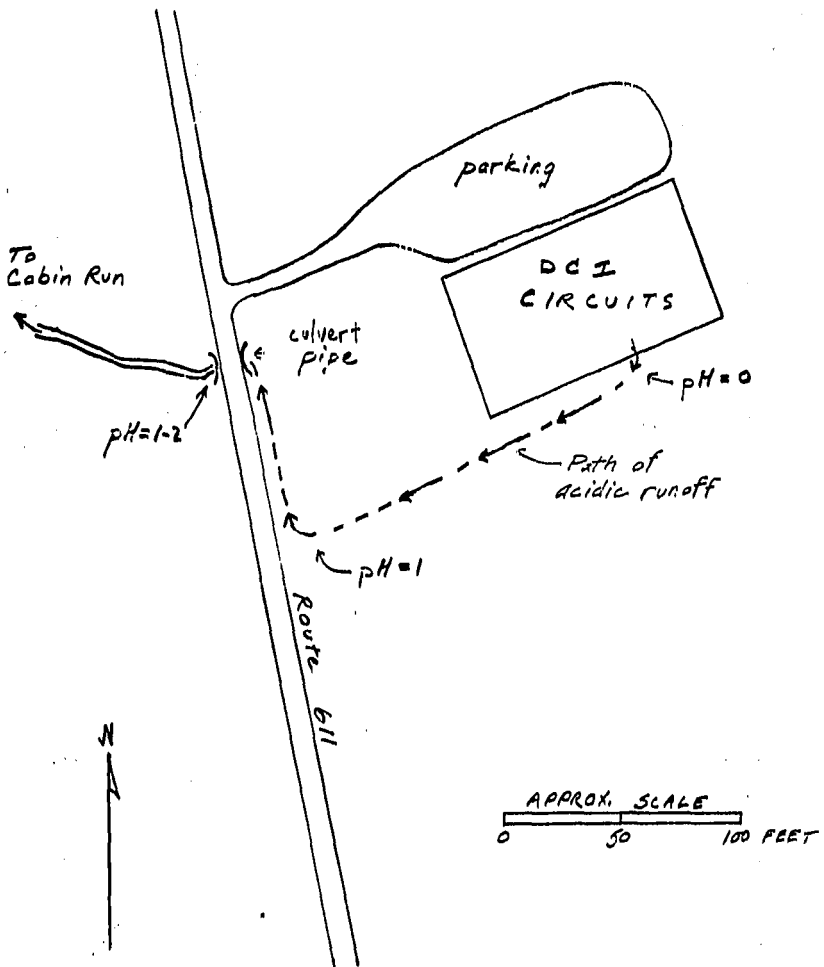
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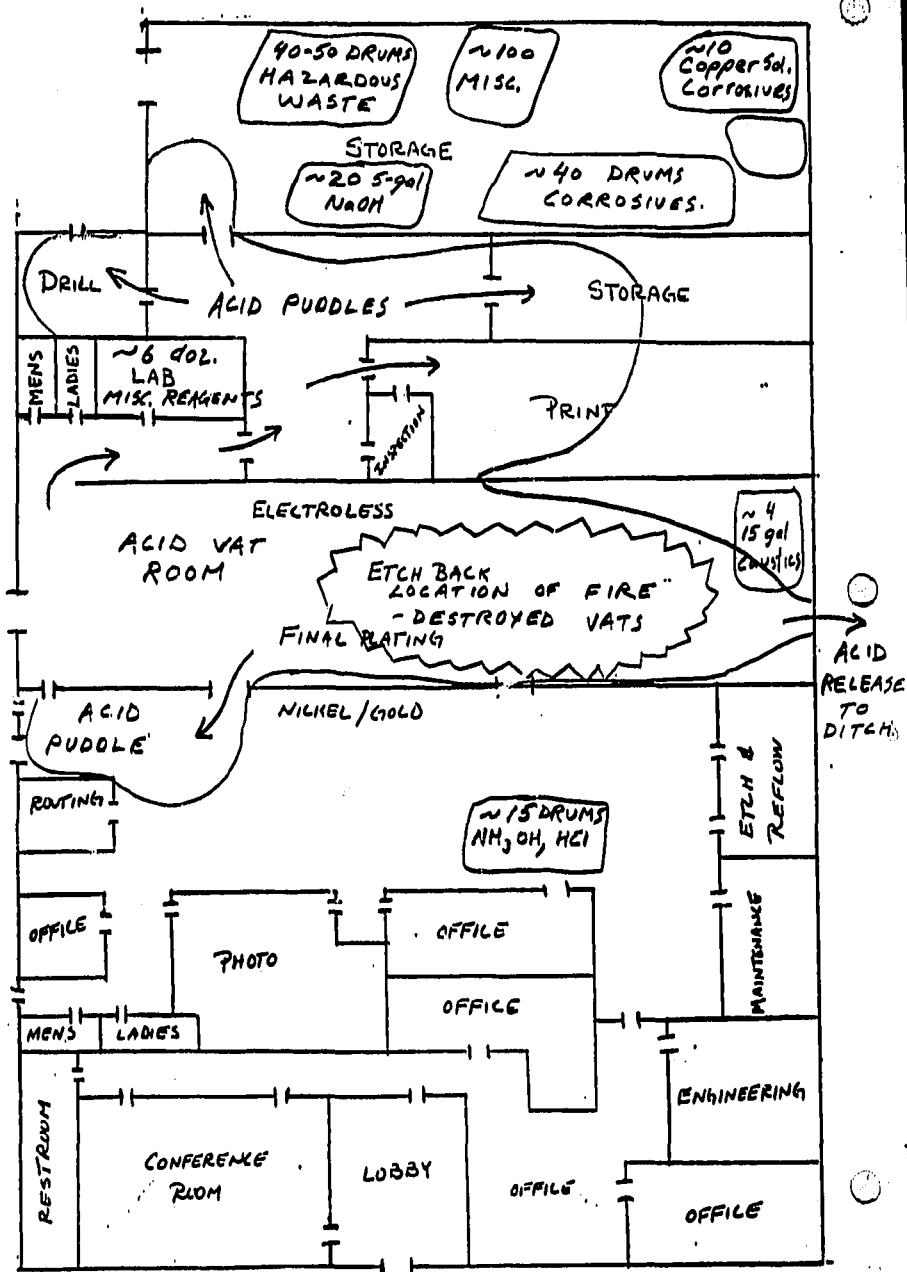
CLIENT/SUBJECT DCI CIRCUITS CHEMICAL FIRE W.O. NO. PCS # 1061 SHEET      of       
TASK DESCRIPTION SITE SKETCH TASK NO.       
PREPARED BY M. TUCKER DEPT. TAT DATE 2/3/87  
MATH CHECK BY      DEPT.      DATE      APPROVED BY       
METHOD REV. BY      DEPT.      DATE      DEPT.      DATE     



AR100013

# D.C.I. CIRCUITS

# FLOOR PLAN



NORTH

APPROX. SCALE  
0 10 20 FEET

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